

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4640

S E C R E T AMMAN 3359

NODIS/CHEROKEE

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, EG, SY, JO, US, XF

SUBJ: TALK WITH KING AND RIFAI, SADAT VISIT AND RIFAI'S
VISIT WITH ASAD

1. THIS EVENING KING CALLED ME TO PALACE AND HANDED ME LETTER
FOR YOU (NEXT FOLLOWING CABLE) WHICH DESCRIBES MAIN POINTS OF
SADAT VISIT.
2. KING DISCUSSED SUBJECT WITH ME QUITE EXTENSIVELY. MADE POINT
THAT SADAT BADLY NEEDS OUR HELP IN ECONOMIC AREA AND INTERNAL
DIFFICULTIES IN EGYPT WERE DISCUSSED FRANKLY AND ARE REAL.
IN ADDITION, SADAT COUNTING HEAVILY ON US MILITARY EQUIPMENT.
SOVIETS AND HE ARE AT COMPLETE LOGGERHEADS AND OVER 100 EGYPTIAN
AIRCRAFT ARE DEADLINED.
3. SADAT WAS FEARFUL ABOUT VISIT TO SYRIA EXPECTING COMPLETE
DISAGREEMENT. KING SAID IT LOOKS LIKE HE GOT A VERY COLD
RECEPTION FROM ASAD.
4. SADAT NOTED THAT RELATIONS BETTER WITH IRAQ, BUT THAT HE
DOES NOT REALLY TRUST IRAQIS, PARTICULARLY PRESENT BAATH REGIME.
IN FACT SADAT VERY DOWN ON ALL BAATHIS.
5. KING FELT THAT SADAT'S FIRST HAND LOOK AT JORDAN WAS IMMENSELY
IMPORTANT. HE SAID SADAT APPEARED TO THINK THAT JORDAN ANOTHER
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GULF SHEIKDOM LIKE UM AL QAWAIN. VIEW WAS NOW ENTIRELY DIFFERENT.

SADAT ARRANGED TO MEET WITH KING, POSSIBLY IN AQABA, AFTER SALZBURG MEETING TO COORDINATE STRATEGY.

6. SADAT DEEPLY INTERESTED IN PRESIDENT, HIS VIEWS, HIS INTENTIONS AND KING'S JUDGEMENT ABOUT WHAT WOULD BE OF INTEREST TO HIM AND HOW FIRM HE COULD EXPECT PRESIDENT AND US TO BE IN FUTURE.

7. MIDWAY THROUGH OUR TALK, RIFAI CALLED FROM AIRPORT RETURNING FROM QUICK VISIT TO SEE ASAD TODAY. KING ASKED ME TO REMAIN FOR THEIR CONVERSATION.

8. RIFAI SAID HE HAD SPENT NEARLY SIX HOURS WITH ASAD. PREVIOUSLY KING HAD NOTED THAT ASAD HAD SPENT ALMOST SAME AMOUNT OF TIME WITH SADAT AT RIYADH AND ACCORDING TO SADAT HAD GOTTEN EXACTLY NOWHERE.

9. RIFAI SAID THAT ASAD INDICATED NO AGREEMENT REACHED WITH SADAT.

10. UNDOF MANDATE, ASAD DID NOT COMMIT HIMSELF. WHEN RIFAI PRESSED ALL THE ARGUMENTS ON HIM, HE SAID HE HAD NOT MADE UP HIS MIND, BUT IF HE DID RENEW, HE WOULD DO SO FOR SIX MONTHS, CERTAINLY NOT TO COINCIDE WITH TIME EGYPT HAD CHOSEN. ASAD ADDED NOW THAT THINGS ARE SO BAD WITH IRAQ HE HAS HAD TO SHIFT FORCES TO THE EAST AND IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA TO HAVE THE ISRAELI FRONT COOL OFF.

11. ASAD ADDED THAT HE IS PREPARED TO FIGHT IRAQIS IF THEY DON'T SHUT UP ON THE WATER DISPUTE AND STOP FOOLING AROUND IN SYRIA. THE WHOLE ARAB WORLD WILL BE ROCKED. I WILL NOT STIP UNTIL I GET TO BAGHDAD AND THE IRAQIS SHOULD KNOW I AM NOT FOOLING AROUND.

12. RIFAI SAYS THAT ASAD IS MAD AT SOVIETS. THEY WANTED GENEVA AND NOW THEY ARE TELLING SYRIANS IT NEEDS TO BE CAREFULLY PREPARED. SYRIA WILL NOT GO TO GENEVA UNTIL THEY CAN COORDINATE A POSITION WITH EGYPT. THAT MEANS EGYPT CANNOT USE GENEVA FOR AN UNBRELLA FOR ANOTHER STEP. THIS WILL NOT HAPPEN SOON. HE URGED JORDAN NOT TO GO. KING ADDED THAT HE ASKED SADAT WHAT HE COULD GET AT GENEVA. SADAT HAD URGED LEBANON AND JORDAN TO ATTEND. KING SAYS HE GAVE SADAT NO DECISION ON THIS POINT. HE AND SADAT BOTH AGREED THAT GENEVA COULD BECOME A REAL PROBLEM IF IT COLLAPSED AND THAT SECRET

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ANOTHER STEP BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL IS THE ONLY THING THAT MAKES SENSE.

13. KING TOLD ME THAT HE IS VERY DISTURBED BY THE ISRAELI DRUM BEATING ON HIS MOVING FORCES. HE ASKED SPECIFICALLY IF YOU COULD HELP COOL THEM OFF. OTHERWISE HE THEN WILL HAVE TO GO PUBLIC AND POINT OUT THAT ISRAEL HAS MOBILIZED SOME ARMORED DIVISIONS NEAR JERICHO AND BEIT SHEAN AND PUT MORE INFANTRY IN THE VALLEY. THE

END RESULT WILL BE MORE MOBILIZATION AND FURTHER WAR JITTERS
AND INSTABILITY. HE WAS HOTTER THAN I HAVE SEEN HIM ON THIS POINT
AND I KNOW WOULD APPRECIATE ANYTHING YOU CAN DO TO COOL ISRAELIS
OFF. HE SAID THAT HE HAS MADE SOME SMALL MOVES IN RESPONSE TO
WHAT ISRAEL IS DOING BUT PLANS NOTHING MORE AND EARNESTLY WANTS TO
SEE THE LID PUT ON.

14. RIFAI AND KING DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF SENDING YOU A MORE
DETAILED REPORT IN WRITING ON SYRIAN VISIT. I URGED THEM TO DO
SO AND WILL BE SEEING RIFQAI IN A FEW MINUTES FOR DINNER AND
WILL REINFORCE THAT POINT.

PICKERING

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED SECRETARY.

SECRET

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISCUSSION, KING, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, FOREIGN RELATIONS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, CAT-C, CHEROKEE 05/19/75, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975AMMAN03359
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: OA
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P860035-0120
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750537/aaaabheq.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <08 APR 2003 by ElyME, 3.4.X1, 3.4.X6>; RELEASED <08 APR 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <09 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TALK WITH KING AND RIFAI, SADAT VISIT AND RIFAI'S VISIT WITH ASAD
TAGS: PFOR, PREL, XF, EG, SY, JO, US, (SADAT, ANWAR), (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (ASAD, HAFIZ), (RIFAI, ZAYD), (HUSSEIN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006